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## Beekeeping Creates Buzz in York Town



*Senior Community Relations Officer, **Phillip Biggs** uses a bee smoker to prepare for a hive check*

The Railroad Community Council is reaping the sweet reward of its hard labour after reaping honey from their bee keeping project.

The project, which is in the York Town community, was started with a grant valued at J\$500,000 from Jamalco to boost social enterprise in the community and increase the economic prospects of the residents living in the railroad area.

Council members are responsible for tending to the bees and reaping the honey in the scheme, which is intended to teach interested community residents the fundamentals of bee keeping with a view to create viable small business that will eventually generate much needed income for participants.

Chairman of the Railroad Community Council, David Brown, said the council will soon be on a good economic foundation thanks to the injection of capital to jumpstart the project from Jamalco. Mr. Brown explained that although most of the honey is sold for financial gain, the council will also be investing in interested residents in the community by giving them boxes of bees so that they can start their own beekeeping project.

Regular inspection and on-site training are carried out by representatives from Eltham Garden Supplies in order to ensure that council members are equipped with the requisite skills and knowledge to successfully rear bees.

The Railroad Community Council beekeeping project is one of two such initiatives sponsored by Jamalco. The project is geared towards providing persons living in close proximity to the company's operations an opportunity to participate in income generating activities through their local community councils.